

House File 2444 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2444
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 625)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the definition and provision of palliative
2 care.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135J.1, subsection 4, Code 2022, is
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 135J.1, subsection 6, unnumbered paragraph
4 1, Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

5 "*Interdisciplinary team*" means the hospice patient and the
6 hospice patient's family, the attending physician, and all of
7 the following individuals trained to serve with a licensed
8 hospice program:

9 Sec. 3. Section 135J.1, subsection 7, Code 2022, is amended
10 by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the
11 following:

12 7. "*Palliative care*" means specialized medical care for a
13 patient living with a serious illness that focuses on providing
14 relief from the symptoms and stress of the illness and related
15 treatments and meets all of the following criteria:

16 a. Is intended to improve the quality of life for both
17 the patient living with a serious illness and that patient's
18 family.

19 b. Is provided by a specially trained palliative care team
20 working with other professionals providing care to the patient
21 living with a serious illness to provide additional support.

22 c. Is based on the needs of the patient living with a
23 serious illness, not on that patient's prognosis.

24 d. Is appropriate for a patient living with a serious
25 illness at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and
26 may be provided along with curative treatment.

27 Sec. 4. Section 135J.1, Code 2022, is amended by adding the
28 following new subsections:

29 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. "*Palliative care team*" means members of
30 a team based on the needs of the patient with a serious illness
31 and the patient's family, and includes but is not limited to
32 a physician licensed under chapter 148; a physical therapist
33 licensed under chapter 148A; an occupational therapist licensed
34 under chapter 148B; a physician assistant licensed under
35 chapter 148C; a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse,

1 an advanced registered nurse practitioner, or an advanced
2 practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 152 or
3 152E; a dietician licensed under chapter 152A; a psychologist
4 licensed under chapter 154B; a social worker licensed under
5 chapter 154C; a mental health counselor as defined in section
6 154D.1; a speech pathologist licensed under chapter 154F; a
7 pharmacist licensed pursuant to chapter 155A; a mental health
8 professional as defined in section 228.1; a chaplain; a child
9 life specialist; and an art or music therapist.

10 NEW SUBSECTION. 7B. "*Patient's family*" or "*family*" means
11 the immediate kin of the patient, including a spouse, parent,
12 stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, child,
13 or stepchild, and additional relatives or individuals with
14 significant personal ties to the patient.

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 7C. "*Serious illness*" means a health
16 condition that carries a high risk of mortality and either
17 negatively impacts a person's daily function or quality of life
18 or excessively strains the person's caregivers.

19 Sec. 5. Section 135J.3, subsection 4, Code 2022, is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 4. Palliative care provided to a hospice patient or a
22 patient living with a serious illness and such patient's family
23 under the direction of a licensed physician.

24 EXPLANATION

25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27 This bill amends the definition of "palliative care" under
28 Code chapter 135J (licensed hospice programs). The bill also
29 provides definitions of "interdisciplinary team", "palliative
30 care team", "patient's family" or "family", and "serious
31 illness" and makes conforming changes in the Code chapter.